

Message

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**From:** Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/23/2019 2:57:47 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Steve [Anderson.Steve@epa.gov]; Askinazi, Valerie [Askinazi.Valerie@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Barkas, Jessica [barkas.jessica@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]; Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]; Buster, Pamela [Buster.Pamela@epa.gov]; Canavan, Sheila [Canavan.Sheila@epa.gov]; Caraballo, Mario [Caraballo.Mario@epa.gov]; Carroll, Megan [Carroll.Megan@epa.gov]; Cherepy, Andrea [Cherepy.Andrea@epa.gov]; Christian, Myrta [Christian.Myrta@epa.gov]; Corado, Ana [Corado.Ana@epa.gov]; Davies, Clive [Davies.Clive@epa.gov]; Dekleva, Lynn [dekleva.lynn@epa.gov]; Devito, Steve [Devito.Steve@epa.gov]; Doa, Maria [Doa.Maria@epa.gov]; Drewes, Scott [Drewes.Scott@epa.gov]; Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Edelstein, Rebecca [Edelstein.Rebecca@epa.gov]; Edmonds, Marc [Edmonds.Marc@epa.gov]; Elwood, Holly [Elwood.Holly@epa.gov]; Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]; Fan, Shirley [Fan.Shirley@epa.gov]; Farquharson, Chenise [Farquharson.Chenise@epa.gov]; Fehrenbacher, Cathy [Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov]; Feustel, Ingrid [feustel.ingrid@epa.gov]; Frank, Donald [Frank.Donald@epa.gov]; Gibson, Hugh [Gibson.Hugh@epa.gov]; Gimlin, Peter [Gimlin.Peter@epa.gov]; Gorder, Chris [Gorder.Chris@epa.gov]; Gordon, Brittney [Gordon.Brittney@epa.gov]; Grant, Brian [Grant.Brian@epa.gov]; Gray, Shawna [Gray.Shawna@epa.gov]; Groeneveld, Thomas [Groeneveld.Thomas@epa.gov]; Guthrie, Christina [Guthrie.Christina@epa.gov]; Hanley, Mary [Hanley.Mary@epa.gov]; Helfgott, Daniel [Helfgott.Daniel@epa.gov]; Henry, Tala [Henry.Tala@epa.gov]; Kapust, Edna [Kapust.Edna@epa.gov]; Kemme, Sara [kemme.sara@epa.gov]; Koch, Erin [Koch.Erin@epa.gov]; Krasnic, Toni [krasnic.toni@epa.gov]; Lavoie, Emma [Lavoie.Emma@epa.gov]; Lee, Mari [Lee.Mari@epa.gov]; Lee, Virginia [Lee.Virginia@epa.gov]; Leopard, Matthew (OEI) [Leopard.Matthew@epa.gov]; Liva, Aakruti [Liva.Aakruti@epa.gov]; Lobar, Bryan [Lobar.Bryan@epa.gov]; Mclean, Kevin [Mclean.Kevin@epa.gov]; Menasche, Claudia [Menasche.Claudia@epa.gov]; Morris, Jeff [Morris.Jeff@epa.gov]; Moss, Kenneth [Moss.Kenneth@epa.gov]; Mottley, Tanya [Mottley.Tanya@epa.gov]; Moyer, Adam [moyer.adam@epa.gov]; Myers, Irina [Myers.Irina@epa.gov]; Myrick, Pamela [Myrick.Pamela@epa.gov]; Nazef, Laura [Nazef.Laura@epa.gov]; Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]; Owen, Elise [Owen.Elise@epa.gov]; Parsons, Doug [Parsons.Douglas@epa.gov]; Passe, Loraine [Passe.Loraine@epa.gov]; Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Pratt, Johnk [Pratt.Johnk@epa.gov]; Price, Michelle [Price.Michelle@epa.gov]; Reese, Recie [Reese.Recie@epa.gov]; Reisman, Larry [Reisman.Larry@epa.gov]; Rice, Cody [Rice.Cody@epa.gov]; Richardson, Vickie [Richardson.Vickie@epa.gov]; Ross, Philip [Ross.Philip@epa.gov]; Sadowsky, Don [Sadowsky.Don@epa.gov]; Santacroce, Jeffrey [Santacroce.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Saxton, Dion [Saxton.Dion@epa.gov]; Scarano, Louis [Scarano.Louis@epa.gov]; Scheifele, Hans [Scheifele.Hans@epa.gov]; Schmit, Ryan [schmit.ryan@epa.gov]; Schweer, Greg [Schweer.Greg@epa.gov]; Scott Selken [spselken@up.com]; Scott, Elizabeth [Scott.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Selby-Mohamadu, Yvette [Selby-Mohamadu.Yvette@epa.gov]; Seltzer, Mark [Seltzer.Mark@epa.gov]; Sheehan, Eileen [Sheehan.Eileen@epa.gov]; Sherlock, Scott [Sherlock.Scott@epa.gov]; Simons, Andrew [Simons.Andrew@epa.gov]; Sirmons, Chandler [Sirmons.Chandler@epa.gov]; Slotnick, Sue [Slotnick.Sue@epa.gov]; Smith, David G. [Smith.DavidG@epa.gov]; Smith-Seam, Rhoda [smith-seam.rhoda@epa.gov]; Stedeford, Todd [Stedeford.Todd@epa.gov]; Stevens, Katherine [stevens.katherine@epa.gov]; Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Symmes, Brian [Symmes.Brian@epa.gov]; Tanner, Barbara [Tanner.Barbara@epa.gov]; Thompson, Tony [Thompson.Tony@epa.gov]; Tierney, Meghan [Tierney.Meghan@epa.gov]; Tillman, Thomas [Tillman.Thomas@epa.gov]; Tomassoni, Guy [Tomassoni.Guy@epa.gov]; Tran, Chi [Tran.Chi@epa.gov]; Turk, David [Turk.David@epa.gov]; Vendinello, Lynn [Vendinello.Lynn@epa.gov]; Wallace, Ryan [Wallace.Ryan@epa.gov]; Wheeler, Cindy [Wheeler.Cindy@epa.gov]; Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Williams, Aresia [Williams.Aresia@epa.gov]; Williams, Bridget [Williams.Bridget@epa.gov]; Williamson, Tracy [Williamson.Tracy@epa.gov]; Wills, Jennifer [Wills.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Wise, Louise [Wise.Louise@epa.gov]; Wolf, Joel [Wolf.Joel@epa.gov]; Wright, Tracy [Wright.Tracy@epa.gov]; Yowell, John [yowell.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

**BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES**

[Environmental Chief Vows to Listen to Scientists—Sometimes](#)

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

ED\_002682\_00243579-00001

Posted April 22, 2019, 3:18 PM

President Donald Trump's Environmental Protection Agency is promising to do a better job heeding the advice of its own scientific advisers -- but only to a point.

#### Challenge to EPA's 'Voluntarily Withdrawn' FOIA Policy Survives

By Peter Hayes

Posted April 22, 2019, 1:04 PM

The EPA failed to shake off a suit challenging its treatment of certain Freedom of Information Act requests as "voluntarily withdrawn."

#### Trump Earth Day Message Touts Job Gains, Ignores Climate Change

By Ari Natter

Posted April 22, 2019, 12:50 PM

President Donald Trump commemorated Earth Day with a message that included nods to "historic economic and job growth," but made no mention of climate change.

### **INSIDEEPA.COM ARTICLES**

#### New CDC Data Drives Renewed Criticism On Administration's Lead Plan

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showing children most exposed to lead have recently seen increases in their blood lead levels (BLLs) is driving new criticisms over EPA and other agencies' plan to address the potent neurotoxin, with environmentalists charging the agencies do not address the CDC data.

#### EPA Broadens Asbestos SNUR But Still Faces Criticism Over Lack Of Ban

EPA has expanded the number of renewed asbestos uses for which manufacturers would have to seek agency approval though its final significant new use rule (SNUR), issued under the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), still falls short of calls from some states and environmentalists for even broader restrictions or a total ban.

#### Environmentalists appeal dismissal of EPA science advisor policy suit

Environmentalists are seeking to reverse a ruling that dismissed the first of three suits challenging EPA's controversial 2017 policy barring its science advisors from receiving agency research grants.

### White House weighing EPA's lead dust hazard rule

EPA is facing a court-ordered deadline to strengthen its 2001 lead paint dust hazard standard.

### EPA Urges Court To Reject Challenge To Mercury Inventory, Waivers

EPA is urging a federal appellate court to dismiss a suit brought by states and environmentalists seeking to strengthen the agency's June 2018 mercury inventory and repeal the categories of reporting waivers it included, arguing that its rule met requirements that Congress included in its reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

## **GREENWIRE ARTICLES**

### **Census case could sway environmental litigation**

Niina Heikkinen, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, April 22, 2019



U.S. Supreme Court. Mark Fischer/Flickr

A high-profile court battle over adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census could have significant implications for legal challenges to federal agencies' rollbacks of environmental rules.

The Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments tomorrow in *Department of Commerce v. New York*. The case centers on whether the Trump administration violated the Constitution and federal law when Commerce decided — for the first time since the mid-20th century — to add a question asking whether census respondents are U.S. citizens.

The decision raised fierce objections that asking about citizenship would lead to a significant undercount of the total U.S. population and would have lasting implications for voter representation in Congress and allocation of federal funds to state and local governments.

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/04/22/stories/1060199915>

## **Trump highlights economy in Earth Day message**

Maxine Joselow, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, April 22, 2019



President Trump. Gage Skidmore/Flickr

President Trump emphasized economic growth in an Earth Day proclamation issued today.

"Environmental protection and economic prosperity go hand in hand. A strong market economy is essential to protecting our critical natural resources and fostering a legacy of conservation," Trump said in the proclamation issued by the White House.

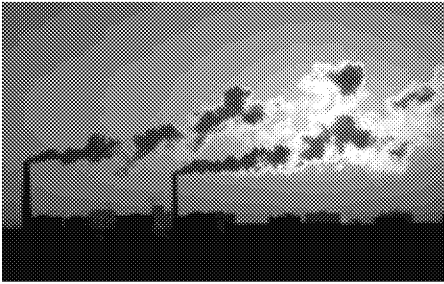
"My Administration is committed to being effective stewards of our environment while encouraging opportunities for American workers and their families," he added.

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/04/22/stories/1060199857>

## **CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES**

### **Feature: Does EU Pic provide 'consent' to outsource harm?**

EU law allows companies to legally transport dangerous substances to developing countries



The chemical ethylene oxide made US headlines in February, after the Illinois EPA ordered a Sterigenics' medical supply sterilisation plant shut down over concerns about potentially carcinogenic emissions.

Sterigenics called the EPA decision "indefensible", arguing that the decision was based on flawed air samples creating "needless fear". The Illinois Department of Public Health recommended further studies using a larger population base and additional sites, but the Willowbrook facility remains shut. The arguments are now tied up in court proceedings.

The US case stirred debate in the EU over the Prior Informed Consent Regulation, commonly known as the Pic Regulation, which applies to industrial chemicals and pesticides that are banned or severely restricted by EU legislation. The regulation aims to promote cooperation in the international trade of hazardous chemicals.

Ethylene oxide is used in the US to make antifreeze, adhesives, detergents, polyester, fumigants and pesticides, and as a sterilisation agent for medical equipment. The US EPA characterises it as "carcinogenic to humans" by inhalation.

In the EU, it is also used in plant protection products, laboratory chemicals, inks and toners, and fertilisers. According to the harmonised classification and labelling approved by the EU, it is toxic if inhaled and may cause cancer and genetic defects, as well as skin and respiratory irritation.

Despite the warnings, EU countries may ship ethylene oxide abroad if the importing country gives 'prior informed consent'. Some NGOs consider the practice flawed, however.

### **An 'egregious practice'?**

'Substances that are dangerous in the EU are not somehow safe in Côte d'Ivoire'

The EU practice of exporting chemicals which it has banned is "an egregious practice" that needs to be stopped, says Joe DiGangi, senior science and technical adviser at the International POPs elimination network (Ipen).

"Substances that are dangerous in the EU are not somehow safe in Côte d'Ivoire," he adds. Regardless of the UN Rotterdam Convention which Pic implements, Mr DiGangi says exports of banned substances should "simply be prohibited".

But EU companies argue that they are following the law and supplying much-needed chemicals to developing nations.



It isn't clear how widespread the practice is. Echa was notified of 14,000 tonnes of shipments for ethylene oxide in 2017 – but the actual volumes could be higher as companies aren't required to notify after their first exports. The agency's database and report do not list company names, only the substances and the EU countries in which the shipments are notified.

Other examples of this legitimate trade include ethylene dichloride, the EU trade bloc's most exported toxic chemical in 2017 with notifications at about 346,000 tonnes. A precursor for PVC, it is identified by the EPA as a "probable human carcinogen". The European Parliament and Council of Ministers have formally adopted a proposal that will add ethylene dichloride to the list of substances recognised as causing cancer in the workplace.

### **'Pic list'**

The 'Pic list' is an array of toxic substances controlled under the Regulation that includes pesticides, hazardous carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and toxic metals, among others.

Some are either phased out in the EU or face severe restrictions. Yet NGOs argue that they are absorbed by developing nations, most of them ill equipped to manage the risks posed to human health and the environment.

Lead is one such example. The poisonous metal, used in a variety of consumer and manufacturing products from batteries and jewellery to shipbuilding and construction, is generally classified in the EU as toxic to reproduction (fertility and development) and toxic following prolonged and repeated exposure (adverse effects on several organs). There are lead restrictions for consumer products and toys and, in March, the EU General Court ruled that a European Commission Decision to allow a company to sell pigments for paints containing lead chromates in the EU was illegal.

Yet, about 13,000 tonnes of lead were notified for shipments in 2017 to developing countries including Ghana, Jordan, Vietnam and Nicaragua.

Creosote, used as a preservative and antiseptic, is another carcinogen banned in the EU for consumer use since 2003 and severely restricted for industrial use since 2011. Echa was notified of more than 100,000 tonnes of exports to developing countries as well as to the US, Canada and Australia.

Cameroon, Oman, Pakistan, Senegal and others received 140,000 tonnes of benzene, a carcinogen restricted in the EU under REACH which is predominantly used to make pesticides, plastics, resins, synthetic fibres, drugs and other products. The EU also imported benzene in 2017, however, mainly to Belgium, Italy and Poland.

The list goes on with Pic's inventory featuring more than 200 chemicals, many of them shipped to developing countries with regulations that may not be as sophisticated as those in Europe. So what is behind this practice?

### **Border control**

Pic, in place since 2012, calls on exporters to use proper labelling, provide directions for safe handling and inform purchasers of known restrictions or bans. Rotterdam's Annex III generates data on 50 of the most harmful substances subject to the Pic procedure. That means trades are on record. Importing countries can exercise their right to refuse certain chemicals and governments can control their borders for harmful substances.

Yet the big question remains: should chemicals deemed dangerous in the EU be sold to other regions?

Bob Diderich, head of the OECD's environmental, health and safety division, says many importing countries lack the regulatory framework to implement the same kind of restrictions as those in the countries of origin.

'We are aware of course of the lack of capacity and legislation in many developing countries to handle the information they get'

"We are of course aware of the lack of capacity and legislation in many developing countries to handle the information they get," says Gunilla Ericson, senior adviser, international unit at the Swedish chemicals agency (Kemi).

"That is why our work with developing countries is focused on institutional capacity development and building and implementation of national legislation for sound chemicals and waste management."

### **Dangerous trade**

"It is easy to find substances banned in the EU for safety reasons, but still manufactured and exported to countries with weak regulatory controls," says Ipen's Mr DiGangi. "It is also easy to find substances that are not banned but extremely dangerous being exported all over the world."

Many Pic chemicals – more than two-thirds of Annex III – are strong pesticides. They represent the biggest chemical exposure in developing countries, mainly due to the large proportion of people working in agriculture. Pesticides are needed to fight crop diseases that are typical in warmer climates.

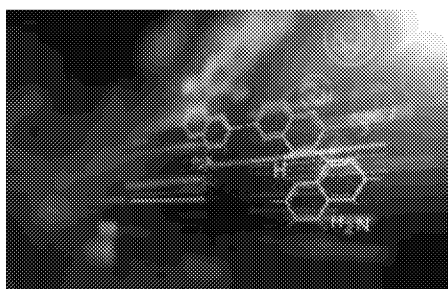
Mercedes Vinas, head of Echa's submission and processing unit, says that in many countries there is also malaria or endemic disease, which requires "far stronger and effective products" than those available in the EU.

What's important, says Ms Vinas, is that authorities are informed about the substances they take into their country and know how to use them safely: "And then it is up to them to decide whether they agree with the import."

Importing countries should, in theory, exercise their right to reject chemicals they cannot adequately control, but this only applies to substances listed in Annex III of the Convention. Many of the EU Pic chemicals, including lead, are not in Annex III.

### **To ban or not to ban**

The purpose of Rotterdam is not to ban the exports. The idea, Echa's Ms Vinas says, is to help developing nations with "capacity building" for risk management and access to information.



Echa provides hands-on training to authorities in importing countries on how to implement international conventions and put a chemical management system in place, she says. Customs officials can use the agency's data on the chemicals.

Rolph Payet, executive secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, adds that Rotterdam "expressly specifies" the right of the parties to take action that is more stringently protective of human health and the environment than called for in the Convention. It is not clear how often that happens, however.

The 'Pic list' consists of 207 chemicals in Annex I subject to varying degrees of notification procedures. Only in 47 of those substances is the full Pic procedure applied under the Convention. For the rest, an export notification, and at most an explicit consent from the importing country, is sufficient.

Much of the information is not open to public scrutiny. Echa publishes aggregate tonnages for each substance, rather than information about individual countries. Companies report their first yearly exports and, if they get the green light, can export for the rest of the calendar year, Ms Vinas says.

Compliance is an issue. A 2018 enforcement [project](#) led to 14 prosecutions in the EU, with a failure to notify Pic exports found in 10% of the companies inspected.

### Industry responsibility

Ipen's Mr DiGangi wants multinational producers to withdraw substances globally if they are banned in any country. Will they do that?

BASF, which produces benzene and creosote among others, said it is "aware" of its responsibility in the international trade and export of all Pic substances and "in strict compliance" with the Regulation.

Dow Chemical, a major producer of ethylene oxide and ethylene dichloride, did not respond to a request for comment.

As for Sterigenics, the Willowbrook, Illinois facility remains closed. "We are taking all appropriate legal actions to resume operations," the company told Chemical Watch.

The OECD's Bob Diderich says the organisation will submit a proposal to develop an indicator counting the number of countries that have a regulatory framework for industrial chemicals. It would be added to an existing suite of indicators for measuring [Saicm](#) implementation – the UN policy framework to promote chemical safety worldwide.

If it is accepted, a baseline report may be ready for September 2020.



[Clelia Oziel](#)

Europe correspondent

### Related Articles

- [EU amends restricted substances in Pic Regulation](#)
- [Ethylene oxide is carcinogenic if inhaled, says US EPA](#)
- [EU formally adopts carcinogens and mutagens Directive second revision](#)
- [EU court rules Commission authorisation of lead chromates was illegal](#)
- [Feature: Has the Saicm programme made any difference?](#)

### Further Information:

- [Illinois EPA seal order on Sterigenics](#)
- [Sterigenics' statements on EPA testing and facility closure](#)



- [Division of Epidemiologic Studies, Illinois Department of Public Health report on cancer incidence surrounding Sterigenics' Willowbrook, Illinois facility](#)
- [Echa website: Chemicals listed in the relevant annexes of the Pic Regulation](#)
- [Echa: Substance information for ethylene oxide](#)
- [Echa press release: EU exported almost 830 000 tonnes of PIC chemicals in 2017](#)
- [Echa: Benzene restrictions](#)
- [Echa: Report on exports and imports in 2017 of chemicals listed in Annex I to the Pic Regulation](#)

## **EPA proposes 11 TSCA significant new use rules**

23 April 2019 / Substance notification & inventories, TSCA, United States

The US EPA has proposed 11 TSCA significant new use rules (Snurs) for new substances that were permitted to come to market, subject to certain restrictions, in the first quarter of this year.

Each of the substances is subject to a section 5(e) consent order, but this only applies to the original pre-manufacture notice (PMN). The Snurs are intended to hold the rest of the marketplace to those same conditions.

The Snurs include certain restrictions, such as how the substance may be manufactured or used, how it is released or protective measures that must be in place. These are designed to safeguard against potential risks identified in the new substance's premarket review.

Any manufacturer wishing to use a substance outside these parameters must first submit a significant new use notice (Snun), which gives the EPA the opportunity to review it and determine if it poses an unreasonable risk.

The latest Snurs join a long queue of rules proposed since last summer that have yet to be finalised. These include:

- [145](#) Snurs, proposed on 1 August;
- [27](#) Snurs, proposed on 17 August;
- [29](#) Snurs, proposed in two batches on 27 August;
- [28](#) Snurs, proposed on 17 September;
- [26](#) Snurs, proposed on 3 October;
- [28](#) Snurs, proposed on 10 October;
- [66](#) Snurs, proposed on 15 November.
- [28](#) Snurs, proposed on 19 March.

Earlier this month, the EPA [finalised](#) 13 Snurs that were issued in the [absence](#) of 5(e) consent orders. This 'Snur-only' practice, while commonplace before TSCA was amended in 2016, has since been the subject of [controversy](#).

## **Related Articles**

- [EPA issues 145 TSCA significant new use rules](#)
- [EPA issues 27 TSCA significant new use rules](#)
- [EPA issues 29 TSCA significant new use rules](#)
- [Twenty eight significant new use rules issued by EPA](#)
- [EPA issues 26 TSCA significant new use rules](#)
- [US EPA issues 28 Snurs, intends to withdraw rule on 27 others](#)
- [US EPA proposes Snurs for 66 chemical substances](#)
- [EPA proposes 28 TSCA significant new use rules](#)
- [EPA to finalise 13 Snurs in the face of NGO protest](#)
- [NGOs call US EPA's 'Snur-only' approach 'unlawful'](#)
- [NGOs call US EPA's 'Snur-only' approach 'unlawful'](#)

## **US FDA extends consultation on sunscreen proposal**

23 April 2019 / Personal care, United States

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has extended the comment deadline on its proposed rule to put in place a final monograph for non-prescription, over-the-counter (OTC) sunscreen products.

The proposal, issued in February, outlines the conditions under which a product is designated as 'generally recognised as safe and effective' (Grase) and can therefore be brought to market without undergoing the new drug application process.

In it, the agency requested additional data on 12 of the 16 currently marketed active ingredients in sunscreen, on the grounds that it currently has "insufficient safety data to make a positive Grase determination" for these.

Only two substances – zinc oxide and titanium dioxide – have been proposed to be recognised as Grase. Two others – aminobenzoic acid (PABA) and trolamine salicylate – are slated to be classified as 'not Grase'.

The Personal Care Products Council (PCPC) and the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA) jointly filed a request for extension. The extra time is needed "to address the numerous topics contemplated in the proposed rule, including but not limited to broad spectrum tests, the sun protection factor claim, dosage forms and recordkeeping requirements."

The request, however, did not extend to the 12 substances for which the agency is seeking additional data. The groups wrote that they "anticipate requesting that FDA defer further rulemaking on those active sunscreen ingredients subsequently identified by industry and for which additional data may be provided."

The FDA has extended the consultation by 30 days, to 27 June. It noted that this extension applies both to comments and to requests to defer rulemaking on specific ingredients.

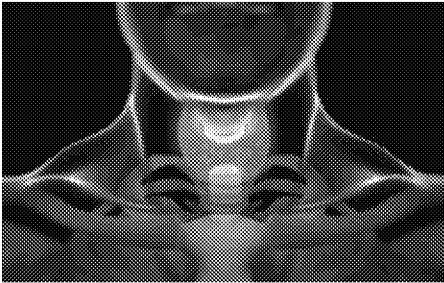
### **Further Information:**

- [Extension notice](#)
- [Extension request](#)
- [Correction notice](#)
- [Proposed rule](#)

## Experts call for 'identical' ED management for all sectors

French report commissioned by European Parliament

23 April 2019 / Children's products, Cleaning products, EDCs, Europe, Food & drink, Personal care



The current EU regulatory framework does not protect human health and the environment from the impact of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDs), according to a French scientific report commissioned by the European Parliament Committee on Petitions (Peti).

The report provided background before the European Parliament [voted](#) to adopt a resolution calling for greater EU action to regulate EDs.

"It is very unlikely that the aim of having all EDs recognised as substances of very high concern by 2020 will be achieved, as promised by the 7th Environment Action Programme, write the report authors Barbara Demeneix and Rémy Slama.

The experts call for "identical management of EDs across all sectors for which ED use is very likely to entail population exposure, notably pesticides, food contact materials and additives, consumer goods, cosmetics, medical devices and toys".

There are currently "insufficient data requirements" to efficiently identify EDs in any sector, they write. "The use of ED tests covering all ED modalities and endpoints should be made compulsory in all application dossiers submitted by the industry," they add.

But they also identify an "urgent need" to accelerate test method development and validation, especially for the thyroid system and metabolic hormones. Regulators also need to make better use of academic publications when assessing ED properties, they add.

The authors point out that the current OECD test guideline validation process can take as long as a decade. "One of the main problems is that the country proposing the test has to find the financial and infrastructural resources to carry the tests out which, in the current economic climate, can be challenging," they say.

France is aware of the problem and has proposed a national centre for ED testing and validation in its ED strategy, they add.

Beyond test development, the experts suggest six research areas that need prioritising:

- epigenetic effects of EDs;
- effects across generations;
- effects on the microbiome;
- green chemistry;
- novel ED modalities; and
- characterising dose-response functions for ED effects in humans.

### **Low-dose effects**

The scientific report covers non-monotonic effects, where EDs have been observed to cause stronger adverse effects at low doses than at higher exposures. As a result, "trying to characterise dose-response functions and identify safe thresholds by testing a small number of doses (usually three in some regulatory tests) may be inefficient for EDs," they suggest.

They caution that "it is unlikely that safe levels can be set", given the scientific knowledge on specific actions of EDs. "In consequence, if a substance is an ED, an 'authorised level' (or risk assessment) logic needs to be replaced by a no exposure logic."

The researchers are confident that their recommendations "will not lead to a ban of a large number of poorly characterised substances". Following the recommendations "would only lead to decreased use or ban for substances with evidence of an adverse effect and their use in products entailing exposure of the general population," they conclude.

Professor Demeneix is a team leader in a National Centre for Scientific Research unit at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. Dr Slama is an environmental epidemiologist and senior investigator at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research.



Dr Emma Davies

Reporter

### **Related Articles**

- [EU Parliament urges next Commission to 'swiftly' tackle EDCs](#)

### **Further Information:**

- [Scientific report](#)

## EU consults on Pic changes to ensure legal clarity

23 April 2019 / Europe, Pic Regulation, Substances of concern

The European Commission has opened a consultation to implement previously agreed changes to the prior informed consent (Pic) Regulation on the export and import of hazardous substances.

The changes reflect an amendment to Annexes I and V adopted in 2013, a year before the Regulation began to apply. Pic entered into force in 2012 and has applied since 2014.

The changes were carried out under the previous regulation of 2008 concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals. These were not duly reflected in Pic Regulation when it became effective, but have been implemented by the relevant authorities and operators since 2014 on the assumption that they were, the Commission said.

They will now apply retroactively from 1 March 2014 to ensure legal clarity and consistency, it added.

The consultation period will run until 14 May.

As the draft amendment reproduces the 2013 changes, which member states have already approved, a written consultation of member state experts was considered sufficient, the Commission said.

Annexes I and V were last amended in [March](#).

### Related Articles

- [EU amends restricted substances in Pic Regulation](#)

### Further Information:

- [Consultation](#)

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## OTHER ARTICLES

[Are there toxic chemicals in your cosmetics, sunblock or shampoo?](#)

Asbury Park Press

This popular brand of dental floss may cause higher levels of **toxic chemicals** to enter your body according to a new study. USA TODAY.

[Scientists Dig Into Hard Questions About The Fluorinated Pollutants Known As PFAS](#)

NPR

The **chemicals** are also used in the manufacture of plastic **and** rubber **and** in ... won't have to do a battery of **toxicity** tests on each individual **chemical**.

Annual report shows **chemical** release amounts from local facilities

WYDaily

With on-site management, the risk of releasing those chemicals into the environment and having them interact with other **toxic chemicals** is decreased.

What Does It Mean to Have Healthy People **and** Thriving Communities?

Natural Resources Defense Council

It's the one in which our water is safe, our products are free of deadly ... securing clean water, eliminating pollution and **toxic chemicals**, preparing for ...

The Top 10 Toxins Lurking in Your Cosmetics

Care2.com

There are over 8,2000 **chemicals** lurking in your personal care **products**, which includes cosmetics. More than one in eight (10,500) of these **chemicals** ...